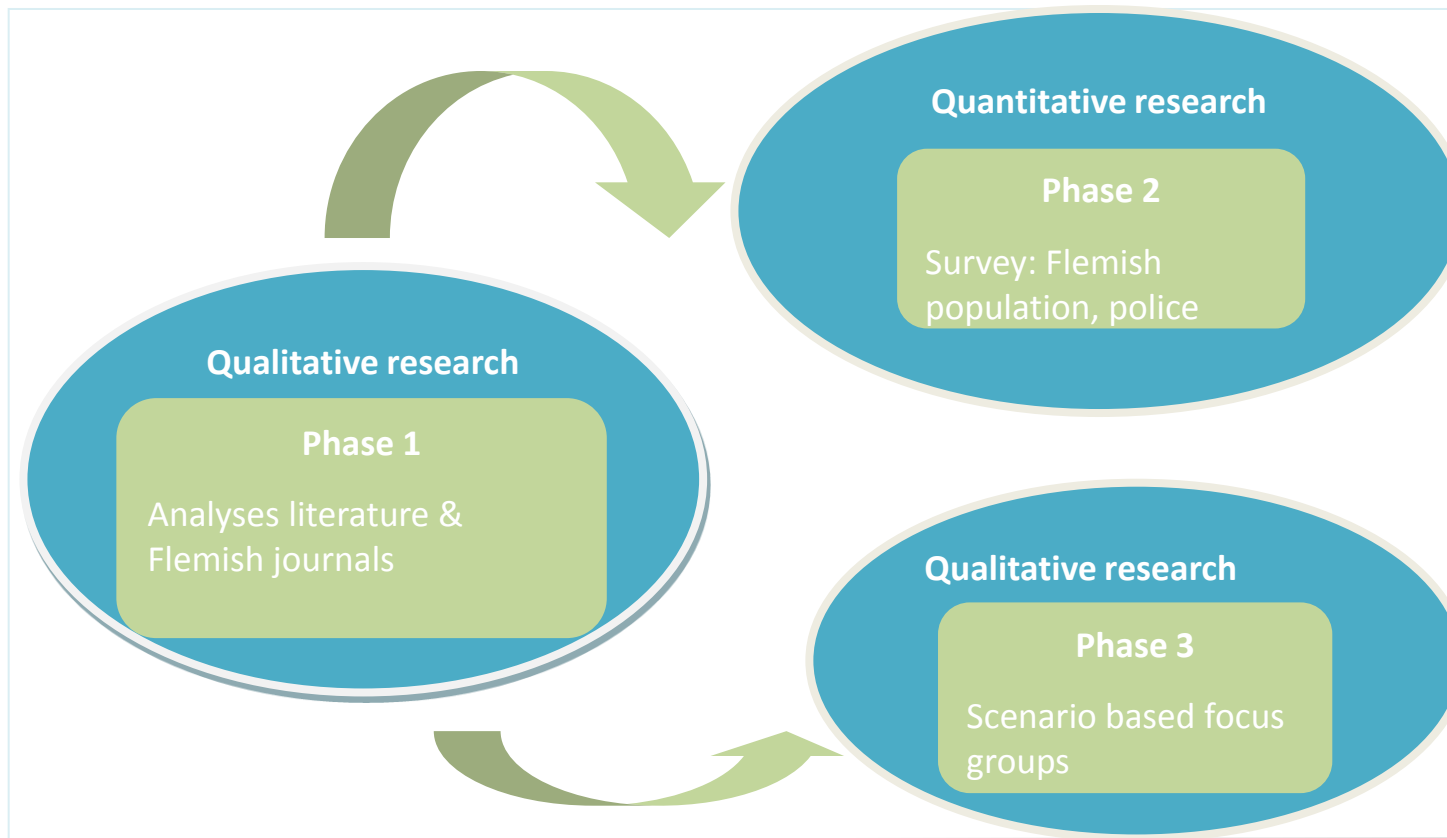


Public opinions about corruption

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Introduction: PhD study corruption as a judgment label



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Research trends

Before '80:

- ✓ Focus on defining 'corruption'
- ✓ Predominant attention for 'political' corruption
- ✓ Sociological meaning of corruption

Since late '80:

- ✓ Introduction of 'good governance'
- ✓ Economic development policy
- ✓ Focus on measuring corruption

Research trends

Contemporary pitfalls

- ✓ Corruption = developing, non-democratic states
- ✓ Western dominated indices to measure corruption
- ✓ Minimal attention for the concept of corruption
- ✓ Neglect of the social construct of corruption

What does 'corruption' and 'perception' mean?

Two foremost scientific approaches:

1. Social science & constructivism

- ✓ Judgement of a situation as corrupt or not
- ✓ Social & political science approach

2. *Econometric* approach to measure level of corruption

- ✓ Perception based indices
- ✓ Governance discourse

Criticism towards public opinion studies

Public opinions are difficult to pin down

Maybe if: public opinions are used as a way to define corruption

Not if: public opinions are used as a way to understand the social construct of corruption

Conclusion

Gaps in contemporary research

- ✓ Social construct of corruption is neglected
- ✓ Scientific literature very discrete on social meaning of corruption
- ✓ Almost now attention to citizens opinions about corruption
- ✓ Continuum of 'not corrupt' to 'corrupt'